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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2017: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains a review of the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in implementing its programme of work in the field of population during 2017. It covers the activities of the Division on the analysis of global trends in fertility, mortality and migration; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and the support given to intergovernmental processes through the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the organization of expert group meetings and the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals.

The objective of the programme of work in the field of population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the development agenda at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development acts as the governing body for the Population Division and thus provides guidance on the work programme as part of its annual session.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

* E/CN.9/2018/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the programme of work on population. The programme of work is guided by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] by the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action (resolution S-21/2, annex) and by the decision of the General Assembly to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 (see resolution 65/234). The outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (resolution 68/4) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), are also taken into account. The work of the Population Division is guided also by the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population (E/2004/25, chap. I, sect. B), and by the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016–2017, the objective of the work programme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda (see A/69/6/Rev.1, programme 7, subprogramme 5). The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance and oversight.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme on population, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 (see A/70/6 (Sect. 9), subprogramme 5), are as follows:

(a) Enhanced awareness of the international community of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding of the interactions between population and development, including the gender dimensions of demographic phenomena, especially in regard to fertility, mortality, migration, family planning, urbanization, population growth, population ageing and the environment;

(b) Effectively facilitate review by Member States of progress made in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of relevant instruments of the United Nations development agenda;

(c) Improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data, sex- and age-disaggregated data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds and programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national government offices,

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult with the Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2017, grouped by thematic area. In addition, it provides a summary of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the provision of support to intergovernmental processes, the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals, the dissemination of population information and data, and technical cooperation. A list of activities and outputs is presented in the annex.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division published a comprehensive data set on family planning indicators, *World Contraceptive Use 2017*,[2] which includes up-to-date, survey-based estimates of contraceptive prevalence and the unmet need for family planning among women of reproductive age (from 15 to 49 years) who are married or in a union.

7. The Division used the information compiled in *World Contraceptive Use 2017* to generate a comprehensive set of annual, model-based estimates and projections of family planning indicators for the period from 1970 to 2030, published as *Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2017*.[3] The model-based estimates provide information for the global monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.1, "Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods" (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1, annex IV).

8. An overview of key patterns and trends regarding Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.1 is presented in a *Population Facts* brief entitled "Tracking Global Progress in Family Planning".[4] The Division also published *World Family Planning Highlights — 2017*,[5] which provides an overview of global and regional levels and trends in key indicators for family planning for married and in-union women.

9. The Division released *World Marriage Data 2017*, a comprehensive collection of data on the marital status of the population by age and sex for 232 countries or areas of the world from around 1950 until 2017.[6] The data set and graphics are available online for users to query interactively and to download. The Division also released *World Contraceptive Use by Marital Status and Age 2017*, a data set of family planning indicators for women of reproductive age (from 15 to 49 years) disaggregated by marital status and age. The data pertain to 186 countries or areas of the world for the period from 1950 to 2016.[7]

10. In 2017, the Population Division published *World Fertility Data 2017*. This data set builds on the historical repository of demographic data and reports collected over

[2] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/contraception/wcu2017.shtml.

[3] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/family-planning/cp_model.shtml.

[4] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-11.pdf.

[5] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/family/WFP2017_Highlights.pdf.

[6] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/marriage-unions/WMD2017.shtml.

[7] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/contraception/wcuma2017.shtml.

more than 50 years by the Population Division and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat. The data set includes information derived from censuses, household surveys and civil registration systems, as well as fertility estimates produced by the Division.[8]

11. The Population Division released the *World Fertility Report 2015*,[9] which focuses on trends in fertility since 1950 and fertility projections up to 2100. The report further discusses empirical data underlying fertility estimates and the effects of fertility on population growth. The key findings of the *World Fertility Report 2015* will be presented in *World Fertility Highlights 2015*. The Population Division also started work on the *World Fertility Report 2017*, which will present an overview of global levels and trends in adolescent fertility for development groups and geographic regions.

III. Health and mortality

12. The Division issued two *Population Facts* briefs on mortality, one focusing on child mortality in Africa and the challenges in achieving target 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals through the reduction of under-5 mortality to no more than 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030 in all countries (No. 2017/6),[10] and a second on the overall increase in life expectancy at birth between 1970 and 2015 by region (No. 2017/9).[11]

13. The Population Division prepared a data booklet entitled *World Mortality 2017*,[12] which presents key indicators of mortality at the global, regional and country levels. The data booklet focuses on a number of mortality indicators and presents variations among countries.

14. In follow-up to the expert group meeting on methodology and lessons learned to evaluate the completeness and quality of vital statistics data from civil registration, organized jointly by the Population Division and Statistics Korea on 3 and 4 November 2016 in New York,[13] the Division issued a meeting report and two technical papers: the first reviews the current state of knowledge with regard to analytical methods to evaluate the completeness and quality of child and adult death registration;[14] the second provides a comprehensive overview of the principles and international experiences in implementing record linkage mechanisms to assess completeness of death registration.[15]

15. The Population Division worked on the *World Mortality Report 2017*, which presents the results of the *2017 Revision of World Population Prospects* and provides an overview of levels and trends of mortality for the period from 1970 to 2015 at the

[8] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/fertility/wfd2017.shtml.

[9] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/fertility/world-fertility-2015.shtml.

[10] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-6.pdf.

[11] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-9.pdf.

[12] United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/412.

[13] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/26/index.shtml.

[14] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/TP2017-2.pdf.

[15] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/TP2017-5.pdf.

world level, for development groups and major areas, along with *Highlights* that will provide a concise overview of levels and trends in mortality for key age groups. The Division issued in advance of the report an online data set containing the analytical tables to be presented in the report.[16] The Excel tables provide estimates of life expectancy at birth, infant and under-5 mortality, the probability of dying between ages 15 and 60, and between birth and age 60 and life expectancy at age 60 by country and region for five-year periods from 1950–1955 to 2010–2015. Also issued as part of the online materials for the report is the *Mortality Data Inventory 2017*, a comprehensive inventory of the availability of primary data for the estimation of adult and child mortality at the national level; the inventory can be queried through an interactive web database.[17]

16. The Population Division conducted a desk review of existing data sources to measure mortality in both developed and developing countries to inform the *Mortality Data Inventory 2017* and continued to compile basic data tabulations on population and adult mortality by age and sex from various demographic sources, including censuses and household surveys. The Division is consolidating this information with relevant metadata into a database to facilitate further analytical work to estimate mortality and assess data quality and completeness.

IV. International migration

17. The Population Division issued a new set of estimates on the international migrant stock disaggregated by age and sex and by country of birth or citizenship for 232 countries and areas since 1990 in *International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*.[18] According to this latest assessment, the global stock of international migrants reached 258 million by mid-2017, an increase of 49 per cent as compared with 2000. The release of the *2017 Revision* was accompanied by the publication *International Migration Report 2017 — Highlights*, summarizing the main levels and trends in international migration.[19]

18. The Division published the *International Migration Report 2017*,[20] which analyses levels and trends in the international migrant stock, assesses the contribution of net migration to total population change, discusses recent developments on migration at the United Nations and provides updated information on the ratification of international instruments related to international migration. The Division also published the wallchart *International Migration 2017*.[21] The wallchart provides key indicators on the number of international migrants, information on the ratification of international instruments related to international migration and estimates on the inflow of migrant remittances.

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[16] *World Mortality Report 2017: CD-ROM edition* (POP/DB/WMR/2017). Available online at: www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/mortality/world-mortality-cdrom-2017.shtml.

[17] *World Mortality Report 2017: Mortality Data Inventory 2017* (POP/DB/MORT/2017). Available online at: www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/mortality/.

[18] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates17.shtml.

[19] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf.

[20] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017.pdf.

[21] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/wallchart/docs/MigrationWallChart2017.pdf.

19. The fifteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held in New York from 16 to 17 February 2017. The main objectives of the meeting were: (a) to take stock of progress made in implementing the migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1); (b) to contribute to the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (General Assembly resolution 71/1); (c) provide a venue for Member States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to present, discuss and coordinate activities and initiatives on international migration. The report of the meeting[22] summarizes the discussions and main findings.

20. With a view to supporting the process of intergovernmental negotiations for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, the Population Division produced a *Compendium of agreed language on migration*.[23] The web-based compendium brings together conventions, declarations and resolutions related to international migration that have been adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

21. The Division produced two *Population Facts* briefs on international migration. The first (No. 2017/5)[24] presents the main findings from the 2017 revision of the international migrant stock estimates. The second (No. 2017/8)[25] analyses the contribution of net migration to overall population change, based on the *2017 Revision* of *World Population Prospects*.

22. The Division issued a technical paper that provides the latest evidence on the linkages between international migration and development.[26] The paper examines the relationship between informal labour markets and international migration and addresses the challenges and opportunities of regularizing informal labour markets through, inter alia, providing legal pathways to migrants. A second technical paper[27] discusses the application of individual-level census data and indirect demographic estimation techniques to provide new and comparable estimates of the contribution of natural population growth, internal and international migration to population change in 23 city-regions across the world from 1990 to 2010.

23. The Population Division collaborated with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank in organizing the fifth edition of the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development in New York on 15 and 16 June 2017.[28] The meeting coincided with the third annual International Day of Family Remittances, celebrated on 16 June.

24. The Division participated in a round table, organized by the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Berlin on 30 June. The Division participated in various

[22] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/.coordination/15/index.shtml.

[23] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/resolutions/docsearch.shtml.

[24] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-5.pdf.

[25] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20178.pdf.

[26] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/technicalpapers/docs/TP2017-8.pdf.

[27] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/TP2017-10.pdf.

[28] See https://www.ifad.org/web/events/gfrid2017.

activities organized by the Global Migration Group. As co-chairs of the working group on data and research, the Division and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) oversaw the preparations for a handbook for improving the production and use of migration data for development.[29]

25. The Population Division collaborated with the Statistics Division in organizing an expert group meeting on improving migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York from 20 to 22 June.[30] The aim of the meeting was to assess data requirements for measuring the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and to provide inputs to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

V. Global population estimates and projections

26. In June 2017, the United Nations Population Division issued *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*,[31] which received considerable media coverage following its launch at a press conference. According to this latest assessment, the world's population numbered nearly 7.6 billion in mid-2017 and is projected to increase to 9.7 billion by 2050. These results are based on the medium-variant projection, which assumes a decline in fertility in countries where large families are still prevalent and a slight increase in fertility in several low-fertility countries.

27. The preparation of the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the work of the Population Division. These estimates and projections are used extensively within the United Nations system and by the general public and are distributed as part of widely used databases accessible on the Internet, including the World Development Indicators database, maintained by the World Bank; the data portal of the United Nations, UNdata, maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and FAOSTAT, the statistics database maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Several commercial database services also redistribute the work of the Population Division, under agreements with the Department of Public Information.

28. The Division has continued to develop probabilistic population projections for all countries and areas of the world up to the year 2100. Given the long projection horizon, results at the country level are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. Users are thus invited to focus not only on the outcomes of the medium variant, which corresponds to the median of several thousand projected country trajectories for each component, but also on the uncertainty intervals, which describe a range of plausible outcomes. The results from the probabilistic projections are available on the Division's website.[32]

29. Several outputs presenting the results of the *2017 Revision* are available on the website of the Population Division. Highlights of the new estimates and projections are presented in the report *Key Findings and Advance Tables*.[33] Detailed data for

[29] Available from https://www.knomad.org/publication/handbook-improving-production-and-use-migration-data-development-0.

[30] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data.

[31] See https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/.

[32] See https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Probabilistic/Population/.

[33] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_KeyFindings.pdf.

world regions and for countries are areas are available from the website in a variety of formats, including Excel and ASCII file formats, an interactive database and two PDF volumes (*Volume I: Comprehensive Tables*[34] and *Volume II: Demographic Profiles*).[35] Supporting materials such as data sources and meta-information are made available as well. The site also includes useful figures and maps illustrating the data. Print publications from the *2017 Revision* include a wallchart[36] and a data booklet,[37] providing key demographic indicators for all countries and areas of the world, and two *Population Facts* briefs that analyse the results: *The end of high fertility is near* (No. 2017/3)[38] and *The impact of population momentum on future population growth* (No. 2017/4).[39] A report entitled *Methodology of the United Nations Population Estimates and Projections*[40] gives an overview of the data and methods used in the 2017 Revision, while two technical papers present studies that led to the revision of projection methods for life expectancy at birth[41] and for age-specific mortality.[42]

30. In 2017, the Population Division continued its work on revising and updating the software used to generate the global population estimates and projections presented in *World Population Prospects*. The Population Division has continued to develop probabilistic population projections for all countries and areas of the world up to the year 2100 and made important changes in the mortality modules.

31. In 2017, the Population Division began work on the *2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, which will contain updated estimates of the urban and rural populations of 233 countries or areas from 1950 to 2018 and projections to 2050, as well as estimates of population size from 1950 to 2018 and projections to 2035 for all urban agglomerations with 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2018. The results are expected to be released in the second quarter of 2018.

VI. Population policies

32. In 2017, the Population Division published a data booklet entitled *International Migration Policies*[43] that highlights current policies on immigration and emigration for all countries of the world, drawing on data published in the 2015 revision of the *World Population Policies Database*. The booklet provides information on

[34] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_Volume-I_Comprehensive-Tables.pdf.

[35] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_Volume-II-Demographic-Profiles.pdf.

[36] World Population 2017 (Wallchart) (ST/ESA/SER.A/398) Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_Wallchart.pdf.

[37] Data Booklet World Population Prospects 2017 — Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/401). Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_DataBooklet.pdf.

[38] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/PopFacts_2017-3_The-end-of-high-fertility.pdf.

[39] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/PopFacts_2017-4_Population-Momentum.pdf.

[40] Methodology of the United Nations (ESA/P/WP.250). Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_Methodology.pdf.

[41] Technical paper No. 2017/7. Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_TechnicalPaperNo7.pdf.

[42] Technical paper No. 2017/6. Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_TechnicalPaperNo6.pdf.

[43] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/international_migration_policies_data_booklet.pdf.

government measures to promote integration of immigrants, measures to address irregular immigration and policies to encourage investment by diasporas.

33. The Division published another data booklet, entitled *Reproductive Health Policies 2017*.[44] This booklet highlights government policies and programmes on family planning and reproductive health, drawing on data published in the 2015 revision of the *World Population Policies Database*. The booklet provides information on government support for family planning, policy measures to promote access to contraception, measures to improve the reproductive and sexual health of adolescents and measures to reduce maternal and newborn mortality.

34. The Division published two *Population Facts* briefs on policy topics. The first focused on international migration policies (No. 2017/7)[45] and the second on fertility policies around the world (No. 2017/10).[46] The Division also published an infochart[47] on policies to balance family and work life, focusing on countries with low fertility.

35. The Division continued its work on the Global Abortion Policies project in collaboration with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research of the World Health Organization (WHO). The project is expected to develop an interactive, open-access database and repository of current abortion laws and policies. Once finalized, the database will allow users to download data and supporting legal and policy documents for selected countries or regions of the world.

36. The Division initiated a technical paper on the methodology for the measurement of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.7.2, "Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies". The paper will present the conceptual framework, including six domains and corresponding proxy measures for global monitoring of progress on indicator 10.7.2. The paper will also describe the methodology for data collection using the migration module of the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development.

37. The Division also began work on a paper on policies to address population ageing. Using the latest data from the *World Population Policies Database* and the *World Population Prospects*, the paper examines government concerns and specific policy measures adopted to address population ageing in relation to current and projected levels of population ageing.

38. In 2017, the Division started preparations for the implementation of the twelfth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. The Inquiry, mandated by the General Assembly in 1962, is a long-standing survey among Governments to gather information on selected policies and programmes related to population issues to help monitor progress in the implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

[44] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/reproductive_health_policies_2017_data_booklet.pdf.

[45] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-7.pdf.

[46] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-10.pdf.

[47] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/Infochart_work-family_balance.pdf.

VII. Population and development

39. The Population Division published *World Population Ageing 2017*[48] and a summary of the highlights of the report,[49] incorporating up-to-date estimates and projections of the number and share of older persons in the population for all countries and regions, based on *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*. The full report presents a detailed picture of trends in population ageing and the number of older persons at the regional and country levels, as well as descriptions of the demographic characteristics of older persons and the demographic drivers of population ageing. The *Highlights* report provides a summary of global trends in population ageing. Both the *Highlights* and the full report include a special focus on global and regional trends in the household living arrangements of older persons, reflecting global and regional summaries of the country estimates compiled in the *United Nations Database on the Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2017*,[50] which the Division published to complement its work in the area of ageing.

40. The database presents a compilation of indicators on the household composition, or living arrangements, of persons aged 60 or over, estimated using both tabulated data and micro-data from censuses and household surveys. The estimates are based on 664 data sources from 143 countries or areas, representing approximately 97 per cent of persons aged 60 or over globally, with dates ranging from 1960 to 2015. The estimates are disaggregated by sex and age (age 60–79 years and age 80 years or over) and, where data permit, by urban and rural residence. The accompanying report on the living arrangements of older persons 2017[51] describes in detail the data sources and methods used to estimate the household living arrangements of older persons, analyses the country-level patterns and trends in older persons' living arrangements and reviews the available evidence on the proportion of older persons residing in non-household collective quarters, such as nursing facilities. In addition, the Division prepared an infochart[52] on world population ageing, which presents a snapshot of the main results of the report *World Population Ageing 2017*.

41. The Population Division completed a database that documents recent trends in size and composition of households around the world. Information about households was compiled using microdata obtained from censuses and household surveys. In addition to trends in household size and composition, the database includes estimates of living arrangements of persons by age. The database builds on the Division's earlier work on the living arrangements of older persons, extending it to include estimates of the living arrangements of children, youth and working-age adults.[53]

42. The Population Division has also published the data booklet *Household Size and Composition Around the World, 2017*,[54] drawing on the database on household size and composition. The results show that, on average, small household sizes are

[48] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2017_Report.pdf.

[49] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2017_Highlights.pdf.

[50] Available from https://population.un.org/LivingArrangements/index.html.

[51] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/LivingArrangements.pdf.

[52] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2017_Infochart.pdf.

[53] See https://population.un.org/Household/index.html#/countries.

[54] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/household_size_and_composition_around_the_world_2017_data_booklet.pdf.

observed in Europe and Northern America and large average household sizes are observed across much of Africa and the Middle East. In addition, the Division prepared a *Population Facts* brief on household size and composition around the world (No. 2017/2). The brief highlights the main results from the data booklet on the same topic.[55]

43. In 2017, the Population Division continued the development of an interactive database to archive and display the geographic coordinates of city boundaries using various definitions (for example, city proper, urban agglomeration, metropolitan area) and the size of the associated populations as enumerated in national censuses. The selection of countries and censuses for this first round took into consideration the availability of publicly accessible geographic information system boundary files linked to censuses, the number of cities with 100,000 inhabitants or more and regional representation. Continuing work will expand the number of countries, cities and census years included in the database, with the ultimate goal of global coverage for cities with at least 100,000 inhabitants from 1990 to the present.

VIII. Support for intergovernmental processes

A. Reports of the Secretary-General

44. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2017, "Changing population age structures and sustainable development" (E/CN.9/2017/2). The report reviews the changes taking place in the age distribution of populations around the world. These changes are affected by economic and social factors and have important implications for sustainable development. The report documents trends in the population age structure over time, as well as differences across countries and regions. It highlights the critical role of population policies and improvements in health, education, employment and social protection, among other factors, in determining the social and economic consequences that may derive from these demographic changes.

B. Other parliamentary documents

45. For the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development, in 2017, the Population Division prepared a note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for the Division during the period 2018–2019 (E/CN.9/2017/CRP.1).

C. Expert group meetings

46. The Division convened an expert group meeting on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration in New York on 7 and 8 September 2017 to gather inputs for the report of the Secretary-General on the special theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission, in 2017.[56] Representatives of academia, United Nations organizations, local governments and non-governmental organizations were

[55] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-2.pdf.

[56] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/27/index.shtml.

in attendance. There was a broad consensus among participants that, overall, the contribution of migration and urbanization to development are positive. Participants stressed the need for better data on migration and urbanization, including for the review and follow-up mandated by major recent international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the New Urban Agenda. Several presentations focused on the substantive links between migration and urbanization and discussed the tendency of migrants to settle in cities. It was acknowledged that migrant populations present important challenges and opportunities for urban development. Local authorities are on the frontlines of assisting migrants to find work and shelter and to obtain access to services. Migrants living and working in cities are often agents of change, while cities often function as centres of innovation, invention and originality. Although only national authorities have the authority to regulate the entry, stay and work of foreigners, the consensus of the experts was that the perspectives and activities of local authorities are key to the success of countries in integrating migrants. The Population Division collaborated in the organization of the expert group meeting by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and IOM. The report of the meeting, prepared by the Population Division, summarizes the discussions and its main conclusions.

D. Monitoring of internationally agreed development goals

47. During 2017, the Population Division contributed to the work of the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose task is to monitor progress made towards the achievement of target 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely, to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age by 2030. The Inter-Agency Group, led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO, also includes the Population Division and the World Bank. The Division provided inputs to update the online database of mortality estimates for infants, children under 5 and children aged 5 to 14 years maintained by UNICEF,[57] and to inform the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017*.[58] The Division also assisted in reviewing the final estimates and in preparing the *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017*.[59]

48. The Population Division also participated from 5 to 7 April and 9 to 11 November 2017 in two meetings of the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group, which is responsible for monitoring progress towards the reduction of maternal mortality as targeted under Sustainable Development Goal 3. The Inter-agency Group is led by WHO, with the participation of UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and the Population Division. The purpose of the meetings was to review the methodology and new sources of data to be used for the next round of estimates of maternal mortality ratios, to be published in October 2018, and to discuss dissemination plans, the country consultation process and regional workshops. The Division has been an active contributor to the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group census technical working Group focusing on the estimation of pregnancy-related mortality from census data in developing countries and has been

[57] http://childmortality.org/.

[58] Available from http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/.

[59] Available from www.childmortality.org/2017/files_v21/download/IGME%20report%202017%20child%20mortality%20final.pdf.

focusing on methodological aspects and quality assessment of mortality data from vital registration, surveys and other sources.

49. The Population Division[60] published its comprehensive collection of survey-based estimates of family planning indicators, *World Contraceptive Use 2017*,[2] as well as model-based estimates and projections of such indicators, *Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2017*,[3] providing information for individual years from 1970 to 2030. These data sets informed the Secretary-General's report on global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (A/72/114-E/2017/75), in particular, with regard to Sustainable Development Goal target 3.7 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning. The comprehensive data set and model-based estimates and projections provide critical evidence regarding the degree to which the demand for family planning is being met and whether that demand is being satisfied by the use of modern methods of contraception (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.1).

50. The publications of the Population Division on contraceptive use and family planning are widely used by organizations that work to improve sexual and reproductive health, including global initiatives such as Family Planning 2020. The Division is now working to expand the collection of data inputs and the methods used for the model-based estimates and projections to obtain results that apply to all women of reproductive age, rather than being limited to women who are married or in a union. Since 2014, the further development of the Division's work on family planning indicators has been supported by extrabudgetary contributions from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Population Division has now completed the compilation of available data on the use of family planning by unmarried women and is preparing estimates of the various indicators pertaining to all women of reproductive age for the 2018 report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. As the custodian agency for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.2 (adolescent birth rates at ages 10–14 and 15–19) the Division provided updates on adolescent birth rates for women aged 15–19, now available for 219 countries or areas for the period 2000–2015. In an effort also to measure fertility of the youngest age groups, the Population Division is currently identifying ways to collect adolescent birth rates data for the 10–14 years age-group.

52. In 2017, the Division continued its collaboration with IOM to develop the methodology for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies. The conceptual framework for the methodology for indicator 10.7.2, based on the IOM Migration Governance Framework, comprises six interrelated domains: (a) migrant rights, (b) institutional capacities, (c) migration governance, (d) cooperation and partnerships, (e) Migration and development and (f) cross-border forced displacement.

[60] The Division is the custodian agency for two indicators of Sustainable Development Goal target 3.7: indicator 3.7.1 and indicator 3.7.2 (no additional regular budgetary support provided). The main tasks of the custodian agency are two-fold: first, to compile comparable international data series, calculate global and regional aggregates and provide them, together with the metadata, to the Statistics Division. Second, to prepare the story line for the annual progress report. Data are compiled and updated annually in the first quarter of the year and released during the second quarter.

53. In 2017, the Population Division and IOM co-organized two regional workshops, jointly with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to discuss and validate the proposed methodology for indicator 10.7.2. The Division also made preparations to conduct three online regional consultations with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), as well as a global consultation to include the civil society and other stakeholders. These online consultations are expected to be carried out in early 2018.

54. The Division participated in the system-wide consultations and reviews of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Group was established by the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session to develop an indicator framework for monitoring the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda at the global level and to support its implementation. Throughout the year, the Division participated in the review of indicators, including discussions on options for indicators that are not yet clearly defined. The Division also participated in the review of data flows — from the national to the regional and global levels — and in discussions on best practices for the delivery of such data.

E. Support for the intergovernmental process on migration

55. Until August 2017, the Division supported the work of the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, Peter Sutherland, by administering the extrabudgetary funds that supported his work. This included substantive support for his travel and that of his consultants, hosting and maintaining his website[61] and providing advice and guidance on interactions of the Special Representative related to the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The Population Division also contributed to the preparations of the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration and assisted the Special Representative's team so that the report could be published as an official United Nations document for the seventy-first session of the General Assembly (A/71/728).

56. In addition, the Division provided input to the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and review of the commitments of the New York Declaration (A/71/978) and the report of the Secretary-General on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (forthcoming).

57. The Division supported the General Assembly in the negotiations on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (General Assembly resolution 71/280). The Population Division assisted the Office of the President of the General Assembly in organizing the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings (in July, October and December 2017), held in preparation for the negotiations on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Since March 2017, the Division has maintained the web page on the global compact.[62]

58. The Population Division contributed to the six informal thematic sessions on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration held by the General Assembly (in May, June, July, September and October 2017). The Division participated in the preparation

[61] www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/partners/srsg.shtml.

[62] http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact.

of the inter-agency issue briefs and co-led, with the World Bank, the preparation of the issue brief on contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits.[63]

59. The Population Division supported the regional consultations for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The Division contributed to the preparatory meetings organized by ECLAC in Santiago on 30 and 31 August, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut on 26 and 27 September) and ECA in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 October.

60. In response to a request from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, the Population Division developed, in collaboration with the Statistical Division, IOM and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a joint statement on improving data for safe, orderly and regular migration.[64] The statement will inform the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

61. Given the importance of migration on the global agenda, the Division responded to an unprecedented number of requests for briefing notes, talking points and statements on migration and related issues from senior officials of the United Nations. The Division provided these materials in a timely manner while maintaining a high standard of quality and staff also served as note-takers during numerous meetings of senior officials.

IX. Dissemination of population information and data

62. Staff from the Population Division participated in meetings of population-related professional associations, which provide a platform for dissemination of the Division's work in academic circles. In 2017, the Division gave presentations at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, held in Chicago, United States, from 27 to 29 April, and the twenty-eighth International Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, held in Cape Town, from 29 October to 3 November.

63. At the meeting of the Population Association of America, the Division organized a panel discussion and delivered a presentation on "International Migration and the United Nations: Latest Developments and Future Directions". At the International Population Conference, the Division organized a session on strengthening migration data and research in the context of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

64. The Division supported the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in developing a statement on strengthening migration data, research and training in the context of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The statement was developed in response to resolution 71/280, in which all relevant stakeholders, including scientific and knowledge-based institutions, were invited to contribute to the preparatory process of elaborating the migration compact.[65]

65. The Division maintained the *United Nations Global Migration Database*, a comprehensive collection of empirical data on the number and characteristics of international migrants worldwide. By the end of 2017, the database included over

[63] See http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/thematic-sessions.

[64] Available from http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/stocktaking_un_iom_oecd.pdf.

[65] See http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/general-contributions.

5,500 data tables for over 92 per cent of countries and areas worldwide. With more than 7,700 registered users located in over 150 countries, the database has become an indispensable resource for migration researchers.

66. To improve dissemination, all data sets and output from *World Population Prospects* were made available online.[5] Users can download over 600 data files in Microsoft Excel format, as well as database-friendly ASCII files. The website also contains methodological information, analytical charts and the results of probabilistic fertility and mortality projections. According to data from Google Analytics, the website had about 1.5 million page views in 2017, of which over 1 million were unique page views.

67. During 2017, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website, which provides access to timely population information for use by government officials, academic researchers, the private sector and civil society. The website contains all the publications issued by the Division in recent years and a full collection of documents and statements before the Commission on Population and Development since 1994. Web traffic statistics indicate that, in 2017, the Division's website was visited by an average of 15,600 users per day, generating some 5.7 million page views for the year.

68. The Population Division, in collaboration with the Communications and Information Management Service of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs produced a video on changing population age structures and sustainable development. The video was made available on YouTube on 31 March 2017.

69. The Division ensured that all briefings for Member States that were webcast were made available through the Division's website. Also, working through the Communications and Information Management Service, the Population Division used Twitter and Facebook to publicize the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development.

70. The Population Division received many requests for data and provided such data and information in a timely manner. In 2017, the Division continued to meet with delegations of Member States to discuss various population-related topics, including the biennial estimates and projections of the world population, the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development and the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

X. Technical cooperation

71. The Population Division conducted a technical mission on population estimates and projections at the Institut de Statistiques et d'Études Économiques du Burundi as part of a project supported by the Development Account entitled "Strengthening capacities of developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to effectively produce and use population estimates and projections in policymaking for sustainable development". The technical mission was held in in Bujumbura from 13 to 17 November 2017.

72. In 2017, as part of a training fellowship agreement between the Population Division and Statistics Korea, the Population Division received a senior professional of Statistics Korea and provided hands-on training on demographic estimation and projection methods. In addition, a delegation composed of senior officials from

several ministries of the Government of the Republic of Korea visited the Population Division from 11 to 13 July 2017 for briefings on various demographic topics.

73. The Population Division convened a regional meeting on population ageing in sub-Saharan Africa in Lilongwe from 19 to 21 July 2016. The meeting was organized under the ninth tranche of the Development Account project to strengthen national capacities to collect and use population data for evidence-based policymaking. This activity was jointly undertaken with the Division for Social Policy and Development, which is currently implementing a regional Development Account project on evidence-based policymaking on ageing in sub-Saharan Africa.

74. The Population Division is an active partner and contributor to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics, composed of international and regional organizations coming together to forge stronger alliances in the area of civil registration and vital statistics.[66] The Population Division participated from 20 to 24 February 2017 in an expert group meeting on the management and evaluation of civil registration and vital statistics systems,[67] organized by the Statistics Division. The Division also participated in an expert group meeting on disability statistics,[68] organized by the United Nations Statistics Division from 12 to 14 July 2017, and gave a presentation on the disaggregation of mortality data by disability status, covering measurement challenges and strategies to address them.

75. The Population Division participated in a meeting of the Reference Group on Global Health Statistics, held in Geneva on 14 and 15 March 2017. The Group provides advice on a broad range of health-related statistics of relevance to WHO, including age-specific mortality, causes of death and standards for calculating and reporting health statistics. The meeting focused on monitoring the mortality-related Sustainable Development Goals — in particular, on the challenges of monitoring mortality by cause of death in different settings, including those with high-quality death registration systems and those with incomplete systems still under development.

76. The Population Division participated in an expert consultation meeting on 19 January 2017 to review the maternal mortality and child mortality findings of the Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey 2015, to advise on the public release of the data and report and to provide guidance on caveats and further analysis of these data, especially with respect to their use by international organizations in the context of the estimates produced by the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation and Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group.

[66] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/crvs/globalcrvs.html.

[67] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-on-management-and-evaluation-of-crvs-systems/.

[68] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--disability-egm/.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or events organized by the Population Division (1 January–31 December 2017)

Expert group meetings

Fifteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, New York, 16 and 17 February 2017

Expert panel on international migration and the United Nations: latest developments and future directions, annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Chicago, 29 April 2017

Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development, New York, 15 and 16 June 2017

Expert group meeting on improving migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, New York, 20–22 June 2017

Expert group meeting on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration, 7 and 8 September 2017

Expert panel on strengthening migration data and research in the context of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, International Population Conference, Cape Town 31 October 2017

Training workshops

Technical assistance mission on the production of population estimates and projections, Institut de Statistiques et d'Études Économiques du Burundi, Bujumbura, 13–17 November 2017

Workshop on measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicator on countries with well-managed migration policies, Bangkok, 8 November 2017

Workshop on measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicator on countries with well-managed migration policies, Santiago, 29 August 2017

Workshop on collecting and using migration-related data for development: cooperation and exchange in the European-African corridor, Rome, 30 November–2 December 2016.

Reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents

Report of the Secretary-General on changing population age structures and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2017/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2016: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2017/5)

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for the period 2018–2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs[a]

[a] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/pdf/50/1CN92017CRP1.pdf.

Research studies

World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision: Key Findings and Advance Tables (ESA/P/WP/248).

World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision Volume I: Comprehensive Tables (ST/ESA/SER.A/399).

World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision Volume II: Demographic Profiles (ST/ESA/SER.A/400).

World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision: Methodology of the United Nations Population Estimates and Projections (ESA/P/WP.250)

World Mortality Report 2015 — Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/382)

World Mortality Report 2015 (ST/ESA/SER.A/381)

International Migration Report 2017 (ST/ESA/SER.A/403)

International Migration — Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/404)

World Fertility Report 2015 (ST/ESA/SER.A/415)

World Family Planning 2017 — Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/414)

Changing population age structures and sustainable development (ST/ESA/SER.A/XXX)

Databases

World Contraceptive Use 2017 data set (web data set)

World Fertility Data 2017 (web data set)

World Marriage Data 2017 (web data set)

World Mortality Data Inventory 2017 (web data set)[b]

United Nations Database on the Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2017

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision* (DVD edition)

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision — Special Aggregates*, DVD edition

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *Probabilistic Population Projections based on the World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*

International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision

Compendium of agreed language on international migration

[b] **Available from** www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/mortality/world-mortality-cdrom-2017.shtml

Wallcharts, infocharts and data booklets

World Population 2017 Wallchart (ST/ESA/SER.A/398)

World Population Prospects 2017 — Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/401)

Reproductive Health Policies 2017: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/396)

Household Size and Composition around the World 2017: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/405)

International Migration Policies: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/395)

World Mortality 2017: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/412)

International Migration Wallchart 2017 (ST/ESA/SER.A/402)

"Policies to influence fertility and promote work-family balance" (Infochart)

"World population ageing 2017" (Infochart)

Technical papers series

"Support ratios and demographic dividends: estimates for the world" (technical paper No. 2017/1)

"Analytical methods to evaluate the completeness and 1uality of death registration: current state of knowledge" (technical paper No. 2017/2)

"Evaluating the completeness of death registration for developing countries at old ages" (technical paper No. 2017/4)

"Overview of the principles and international experiences in implementing record linkage mechanisms to assess completeness of death registration" (technical paper No. 2017/5)

"Projecting age-sex-specific mortality: a comparison of the modified Lee-Carter method and pattern of mortality decline methods" (technical paper No. 2017/6).

"A sensitivity analysis of the Bayesian framework for projecting life expectancy at birth" (technical paper No. 2017/7).

"Migration is a form of development: the need for innovation to regulate migration for mutual benefit" (technical paper No. 2017/8)

"International migration and city growth" (technical paper No. 2017/10)

Policy briefs

"Population facts: population ageing and sustainable development", No. 2017/1

"Population facts: household size and composition around the world", No. 2017/2

"Population facts: the end of high fertility is near", No. 2017/3

"Population facts: the impact of population momentum on future population growth", No. 2017/4

"Population facts: the world counted 258 million international migrants in 2017, representing 3.4 per cent of global population, No. 2017/5

"Population facts: Africa unlikely to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target on child mortality without unprecedented effort to accelerate progress", No. 2017/6

"Population facts: policies on international migration", No. 2017/7

"Population facts: migration and population change" — drivers and impacts", No. 2017/8

"Population facts: life expectancy at birth increasing in less developed regions", No. 2017/9

"Population facts: Government policies to raise or lower the fertility level", No. 2017/10

"Population facts: tracking global progress in family planning", No. 2017/11.